



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

**SHELL OIL COMPANY**  
**P O BOX 2463**  
**HOUSTON, TX 77252-2463**

**COPY MAILED**

**MAY 27 2005**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Paul Michael McAllister et al  
Application No. 10/815,276  
Filed: April 1, 2004  
Attorney Docket No. TH-2306 02 (US) HS:KNL

:DECISION ON PETITION  
:UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78, filed December 21, 2004, which is being treated under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), requesting acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional Application No. 10/431,035, filed May 7, 2003, as set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the instant petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

Along with the instant petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), petitioner has submitted an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to the prior-filed application.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on April 1, 2004, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. Reference to the prior-filed application was made in the transmittal letter filed with the instant application.

The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the prior-filed application(s) set forth in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).<sup>1</sup> In the instant case, the Office noted the claim for priority of the above-noted, prior-filed application in the transmittal letter filed with the application, as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

<sup>1</sup> Note MPEP 201.11 (V), page 200-75 (Rev. 1. Feb. 2004 and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

In view of the above, the \$1,370 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account in due course.

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Wan Laymon at (571) 272-3220. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to the Examiner of Technology Center AU 1626 for appropriate action on the amendment filed December 21, 2004, including consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for benefit of the above-noted, prior-filed application.

*Karen Creasy for*

Frances Hicks  
Lead Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE  
BOX NO. 34  
1299 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2402